

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	Civil Action No.: 3:13-1398-JFA
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
\$125,000 IN FUNDS)	
)	
Defendant <i>In Rem</i> .)	
)	
Steve Griebel, Claimant)	

CONSENT ORDER OF FORFEITURE

The above-entitled *in rem* forfeiture action was initiated on May 23, 2013. The case concerns the proposed forfeiture of \$125,000 in funds (the "Defendant Funds") from account number XXXXXX533 with Vista Bank (the "Subject Account"), for alleged involvement in violations of 31 U.S.C. § 5324(a) (structuring of currency transactions). The Complaint alleges that the Defendant Funds are subject to forfeiture pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 5317(c)(2) and 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A), which statutes provide for, *inter alia*, the civil forfeiture of funds involved in structuring.

Steve Griebel is the sole signatory on the Subject Account, and has filed a claim to the Defendant Funds. ECF No. 6. No other persons or entities have filed claims and answers in this action, as required by Supplemental Rule G(5).

A Warrant of Arrest *In Rem* was duly executed against the Defendant Funds. ECF No. 8. As set forth in the Declaration of Publication (ECF No. 7), and in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(4), notice of this forfeiture action was published on an official

internet government forfeiture site, "www.forfeiture.gov", for at least 30 consecutive days, ending on August 29, 2013. Any person claiming an interest in the Defendant Funds was required to file a claim within sixty days after the first date of such publication. All time limits for the filing of claims have now expired, with no requests for extensions of such time limits having been requested or granted. On October 3, 2013, the clerk entered default against all potential claimants other than Steve Griebel. ECF No. 10.

The United States and the Claimant, Steve Griebel, have reached an agreement regarding the forfeiture of the Defendant Funds, the terms of which are set forth in a Stipulated Forfeiture Agreement filed October 8, 2013. ECF No. 11. The essential terms of such agreement are as follows:

- Steve Griebel ("Claimant") represents that he is the sole owner of the Defendant Funds.
- Claimant agrees to the forfeiture of the Defendant Funds to the United States, to be disposed of according to law.
- The United States contends that there was structuring of funds associated with the Subject Account, up to the amount of \$1,040,175, in alleged violation of 31 U.S.C. § 5324(a). The Government further contends that funds or other property involved in or traceable to the alleged structuring, up to the value of \$1,040,175, are subject to forfeiture, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 5317(c)(2) and 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A). Claimant denies involvement in any structuring, and further denies that any structuring is associated with the Subject Account. Nonetheless, in order to resolve this matter, Claimant and the Government previously agreed that Claimant would tender to the United States a total of \$500,000, in four checks drawn on the Subject Account. See United States v. \$125,000, Civ. No. 3:12-3448-JFA (ECF #10).
- The Subject Funds in this civil action represent the third of four equal payments of \$125,000 which Claimant has tendered for forfeiture to the United States.¹

¹ The four civil actions are:

Provided that Claimant consents to the forfeiture of all such funds previously tendered, the Government agrees not to seek forfeiture of any other funds or property alleged to be involved in, or traceable to, the alleged structuring which is the subject of this forfeiture action and Stipulation.

NOW THEREFORE, the Court being fully advised, and based on the Stipulated Forfeiture Agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference, it is

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that:

1. All persons, except the Claimant, claiming any right, title or interest in or to the Defendant Funds are hereby held in default, and default judgment is entered against them.

2. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 7317(c)(2), the Defendant Funds, to wit, \$125,000, is hereby forfeited, condemned, quit-claimed and abandoned to the United States of America.

3. Clear title in and to the Defendant Funds is hereby vested in the United States of America, and no other right, title or interest exists therein. All other claims in or to the Defendant Funds are hereby forever foreclosed and barred.

4. The \$125,000.00 in Defendant Funds forfeited herein shall be disposed of by the United States in accordance with law.

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- United States v. \$125,000, Civ. No. 3:12-3448-JFA;
 - United States v. \$125,000, Civ. No. 3:13-1321-JFA;
 - United States v. \$125,000, Civ. No. 3:13-1398-JFA; and,
 - United States v. \$125,000, Civ. No. 3:13-1716-JFA.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Joseph F. Anderson, Jr.
JOSEPH F. ANDERSON, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Columbia, South Carolina

October 10, 2013